

## COLONEL MAKES AEROPLANE FLIGHT

Archibald Hoxsey, Former Salt Lake  
Boy, Took Him Up in a  
Wright Machine.

"IT WAS GREAT! FIRST CLASS!"

Such His Comment on Alighting—  
Went Up About Hundred Feet,  
Traveling Mile a Minute.

St. Louis, Oct. 11.—Theodore Roosevelt made an aeroplane flight today, and said it was the finest experience he ever had had. The traveled twelve miles west of St. Louis, in three minutes and 20 seconds. He waved his hand at the crowd of thousands on the field below, most of whom were too dumbfounded and frightened to move. When the machine alighted easily, a few feet from the starting place, a mighty shout of applause and relief went up.

Archibald Hoxsey, a former Salt Lake boy, now a Wright aviator, with whom Col. Roosevelt made his flight, said that his passenger made a good fellow, and that he was not afraid. He was having such a good time that Hoxsey was afraid he would fall out or interfere with the engine, which was roaring at his side.

The colonel waved his hands at the crowd below so vigorously that Hoxsey called out to him:

COLONEL DISOBEYS ORDERS.

"Keep your hands on the rail, colonel."

Col. Roosevelt, who had forgotten to hold himself in, waved his hands once more and then obeyed orders. The colonel's flight was a complete surprise to everybody. Although he had been invited to go, no one had the least idea that he would do so and he himself did not decide to go until the moment before he stepped into the machine.

The trip to the aviation field to watch the flights there, was on the afternoon program for the colonel's day in St. Louis. He went to Kinloch in an automobile at the head of a procession

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of motor cars that was half a mile long. The cars were filled with members of the Republican state and city committees and business men.

The ride was a fast and dusty one, and much of the way the cars were enveloped in such clouds that it was impossible to see more than a few feet ahead. Col. Roosevelt's face was covered with a thick coating of dirt when he arrived at the field.

Col. Roosevelt's car was driven directly on the aviation field, instead of to the parking place for automobiles. Around the rim of the field were hundreds of cars, which tooted their horns in noisy chorus as the colonel appeared.

The spectators were massed in throngs on every hand, and a company of militia men kept them back. Hoxsey's machine, a Wright biplane, was standing directly in front of the grand stand. Col. Roosevelt stepped from his automobile with Gov. Hadley at his side, and walked over to it. He inspected the broad brown planes and the huge shiny engine and shook hands with the aviator.

"I'd like to have you for a passenger," said Hoxsey.

The colonel looked at him without a word. Then he began to take off his coat. It was the first intimation that any one had that he would make the trip.

Gov. Hadley stepped up quickly, with a scared look on his face, and said:

"Are you really going up, colonel?"

RESOLVED TO GO UP.

"Of course I am," said the colonel, and without another word he took his seat at Hoxsey's direction beside the engine. Gov. Hadley stepped back. He admitted afterwards that he was nervous. "This is my district, and it extends up into the air, I suppose. I feel a sense of responsibility while the colonel is in my territory," he said.

Col. Roosevelt removed his slouch hat and borrowed a gray golf cap, which he pulled down over his eyes. The guardsmen were standing so closely about the airplane that few of the spec-

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tators knew what was going on. Hoxsey took his place beside Col. Roosevelt, who watched the preparations with a smile of anticipation, betraying not the least nervousness.

The colonel stepped quickly around the tailpiece of the airplane until the propellers were well under way.

One caught hold of each of the two great aluminum propellers, and Hoxsey gave the word to start. They whirled the propellers and the six-cylinder motor barked and spouted smoke.

The propellers revolved a few times, and then the motor started.

After two more trials the motor was started, and the blades spun rapidly.

The photographers who had been snapping the colonel in the machine had barely time to step aside before it bounded forward over the grass as the guardsmen released it.

AEROPLANE RISES.

Col. Roosevelt gripped the rail hard and looked straight ahead. The airplane skipped over the field for a few yards, then lifted its nose into the air, rising easily.

Members of the party that had gone to the field from St. Louis with the colonel began a mad hunt for him.

"Where's Col. Roosevelt?" they asked, running up to the guardsmen.

"He's up there," one of the guardsmen said, pointing to the airship.

The airplane sped quickly around the field at a height of less than 100 feet. It was the first lap of a mile and a half before the crowd was convinced that it was really Col. Roosevelt who was flying.

When the colonel swept past the grandstand he leaned forward a bit and waved his hands. The spectators were too frightened to call back to him, and the crowd was silent, watching the airplane with intense excitement. The flying machine sped by and made the turn for the second lap.

Hoxsey could be seen to bend over and shout something into the colonel's ear.

The engine cracked and spluttered, hurling the airplane forward at a speed of nearly a mile a minute, but from the ground it looked as though it was traveling comparatively slow, it sailed so evenly and smoothly. There was not a breath of wind and the engines did not miss fire once.

At the end of the second lap Hoxsey dipped his planes and the airplane descended easily, striking the ground as lightly as a feather a few rods from the grandstand. The machine rolled over the grass and stopped.

Col. Roosevelt, smiling his most expansive smile, arose and climbed out backwards. He became entangled with the wires, but was soon out of them, and started back for his automobile.

When the people were convinced that he had landed safely they cheered wildly and the guardsmen had all they could do to keep him from breaking into the field and sweeping down upon the colonel.

Col. Roosevelt's first act was to reach

for Hoxsey's hand and shake it vigorously.

"IT WAS GREAT!"

"It was great! First class! It was the finest experience I have had," he declared. "I wish I could stay up for an hour, but I haven't the time this afternoon."

"I feel scared," he was asked.

"Not a bit! Not a bit," he said.

"What were your sensations?"

"Oh, it was perfectly fine. I enjoyed every minute of it."

Gov. Hadley, with a long sigh of relief, stepped up to the colonel and thanked him for his automobile. They rode down the field past the cheering crowd and then started back for St. Louis.

LED BY AEROPLANE.

Walter Brookings and A. L. Walsh, the latter on an endurance run, followed the former, president's party in the aeroplane, while Alfred Le Blanc, in his Blériot monoplane, led the automobile procession. The aerial escort continued for almost two miles from the aviation field.

Brookings entertained the party by cutting sharp turns at dizzy heights and giving a miniature exhibition of his famous spiral glide. Le Blanc, in his Blériot monoplane, dived back and forth across the colonel's path like a bee.

On the trip to St. Louis, Col. Roosevelt stopped to make a short speech at Clayton, where a great crowd had collected at the courthouse.

"I had a new experience here in St. Louis county," he said. "I got out there where the airships were, and went up in one."

That was news to the people and they cheered it.

"I went up in an American airship, with an American aviator to handle it," the colonel continued.

From Clayton the colonel drove into St. Louis, and went to the state fair grounds, where several thousand school children were waiting to hear him speak.

Hoxsey DISCUSSES FLIGHT.

Arch Hoxsey, the aviator, in discussion with Col. Roosevelt as a passenger, said:

"Col. Roosevelt beat me to the machine and was crawling in among the wires when I got there. I had taken my seat and the engine was running, and the propellers, when one of the newspaper boys offered the colonel a cap, he being bareheaded at the time. I slowed the propellers and when the colonel said 'all right,' I opened her up and we were off."

"I took the colonel around the first lap without looking at him. We were about 150 feet up, when I felt the machine wiggle a little and turning. I saw the colonel was waving his hat at the crowd in the pavilion seats."

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